

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY PM:RAERICSON, JR.:BPW

APPROVED BY PM:RAERICSON, JR.

EA/K - MR. MAYHEW

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R 072221Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, MASS

SUBJECT: DESIGN CONTRACT FOR ROK FRIGATES

1. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS FROM YOUR END ON MCMULLEN-HYUNDAI NEGOTIATIONS FOR DESIGN OF FRIGATES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY HYUNDAI FOR ROK NAVY. MCMULLEN HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT IT HAS RECEIVED CABLE FROM HYUNDAI PRESIDENT CHUNG TO EFFECT THAT ROK NAVY IS HIGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH PROPOSED DESIGN CONTRACT AND IS CONDUCTING REVIEW OF ENTIRE PROGRAM. MCMULLEN HAS NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED WORD BEYOND SUSPICION THAT UK MAY HAVE REENTERED FIELD AND FACT THAT ENTIRE NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY LACK OF EXPERIENCE ON PART OF HYUNDAI AND ROK NAVY IN CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL VESSELS OF THIS SIZE. PARTICULAR STICKING POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH DESIGNER SHOULD ASSUME. KOREANS HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED DESIGNER TO ASSUME TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY BUT EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED MUCH LOWER FIGURE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION WE COULD PASS ON TO
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MCMULLEN. LATTER IS PREPARED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO

SEOUL. WOULD THIS BE HELPFUL? ROBINSON

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